

REMARKS

Claims 5, 9, 11-14, 17, 18, 21-28, 32, 34, 37-39, 42-45, and 48 are pending. A Final Office Action mailed August 5, 2005 rejected Claims 5, 9, 11, 13, 14, 18, 21-28, 32, 34, 37-39, 42-45, and 48 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) and allowed Claims 12 and 17 if amended to incorporate the limitations of the rejected independent claims. By way of this amendment, Applicant amends Claims 5, and 13 and cancels Claims 12, 17, and 21-48. Pursuant to 37 CFR § 1.116, Applicants hereby respectfully request reconsideration of the application.

REJECTION OF CLAIMS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Final Office Action rejected Claims 5, 11, 13, 14, 18, 21-28, 34, 38, 39, and 42-45 as being unpatentable over Crook (U.S. Patent No. 5,142,478) in view of Cooper (U.S. Patent No. 4,316,252) and rejected Claims 5, 11, 13, 14, 18, 21-28, 34, 38, 39, and 42-45 as being unpatentable over Crook and Cooper in further view of Muller et al. With regard to amended independent Claims 5 and 13, Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

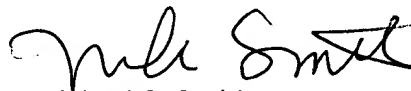
Applicant hereby amends Claims 5 and 13 to include the subject matter that was indicated allowable in the Final Office Action. Therefore, Claims 5, 9, 11, 12, 14, and 18 are now in condition for allowance. Also, because Claims 5 and 13 are allowable and generic to Claims 6-11, 14-16, and 18, Applicants submit that Claims 6-8, 10, 15, and 16 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the pending application are allowable over the cited references. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the rejections, allowance, and early passage through issuance. If the examiner has any questions, the examiner is invited to contact the Applicant's agent listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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MAIL CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify that this communication is being deposited with the United States Postal Service via first class mail under 37 C.F.R. § 1.08 on the date indicated below addressed to: MAIL STOP AF, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.

12/23/05

Date of Deposit



Michelle J. Carman